



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

GROUND WATER AWARENESS WEEK

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Public Water Supplies

BISMARCK, N.D. – That glass of water the waitress brought to your table ... the refreshing splash from the water fountain at your office ... the cup of ice chips the nurse brought you after surgery ... where does all that water come from?

If you answered “from a tap,” keep reading. You need to.

Approximately 90 percent of public water supplies that provide drinking water to restaurants, day -are centers, campgrounds, office buildings, factories, hospitals, schools and churches come from ground water systems.

March 13 through 19 has been designated National Ground Water Awareness Week. In North Dakota, protecting ground water is one of the primary functions of the North Dakota Department of Health’s Division of Water Quality. Ground water is found between soil particles and cracks in rocks underground, in formations known as aquifers.

According to the Groundwater Foundation, Americans drink more than one billion gallons of tap water per day. And most Americans barely give it a second thought. But what is the source of that tap water?

Ground water is a primary source of drinking water for 60 percent of all North Dakotans. For rural populations, the figure is 97 percent, according to the North Dakota Department of Health.

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Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

The National Ground Water Association urges water well owners to get their wells tested annually during Awareness Week. But whether there is a well in your backyard or not, ground water awareness is an important issue. The odds are good that tumbler on your table contains water that came from an underground aquifer.

Protecting this valuable resource is the responsibility of the North Dakota Department of Health, but it's your responsibility, too. Think about that the next time you're thirsty.

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